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Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council establishes United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan to monitor implementation of cease-fire and provide good offices; calls on Tajik parties to strive for comprehensive political settlement.

+ General Assembly urges parties to Middle East peace process to implement agreements reached; reiterates demand for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Syrian Golan.

+ General Assembly urges Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cooperate with IAEA; stresses need for Iraq to continue cooperating with Agency in implementation of Security Council resolutions.

+ Secretary-General expresses hope Western Sahara transitional period will start on 1 June 1995, with view to referendum in October; recommends Security Council expand MINURSO to speed identification and registration process.

+ Prosecutor of International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to visit Kigali next week for consultations with Government, UNAMIR and human rights officials.

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The Security Council today established the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) for a period of up to six months, in accordance with the plan outlined in the Secretary-General's report of 30 November. It said the Mission would continue beyond 6 February 1995 only if the Tajik parties extended the Agreement of 17 September on a Temporary Cease-fire on the Tajik-Afghan Border, and remained committed to an effective cease-fire, national reconciliation and the promotion of democracy. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 968 (1994).

The Council mandated the Mission to assist the Joint Commission to monitor implementation of the 17 September Agreement; investigate cease-fire violations and report on them to the United Nations and the Joint Commission;

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and provide its good offices as stipulated in the Agreement. The Mission will also maintain close contacts with the parties to the conflict, as well as close liaison with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Mission in Tajikistan and with the Collective Peace-keeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States and with the border forces; support the efforts of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy; and provide political liaison and coordination services, which could facilitate international humanitarian assistance.

The Council called on the parties to redouble their efforts to achieve a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict as soon as possible. It urged them to strictly comply with their obligations to fully implement the Agreement of 17 September and to refrain from any steps that would aggravate the existing situation or hinder the process of national reconciliation. The Council asked the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund to support implementation of the Agreement, and encouraged Member States to contribute to it.

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The General Assembly today expressed its full support for the peace process thus far in the Middle East and urged all parties to implement the agreements reached. In a resolution adopted by 149 votes in favour to 4 against (Iran, Lebanon, Libya, Syria), with 2 abstentions (Antigua and Barbuda and Sudan), the Assembly stressed the need for rapid progress on the other tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations. It also called on all Member States to extend financial and technical assistance to parties in the region and to provide support for the peace process.

The Assembly also adopted a resolution on Jerusalem by a vote of 138 in favour to 2 against (Costa Rica and Israel), with 7 abstentions (Antigua and Barbuda, Cote d'Ivoire, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, United States and Zambia). It determined that Israel's decision to impose its laws and administration on the city was illegal, null and void. It also deplored the transfer by some States of their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem, and called on them to abide by relevant Security Council resolutions.

In a third resolution on the situation in the Middle East, the General Assembly demanded once more that Israel withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan, saying that the continued occupation of the Golan and its de facto annexation constituted a stumbling-block in the way of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region. The Assembly took that action by a vote of 77 in favour to 2 against (Israel and United States), with 70 abstentions.

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The General Assembly has urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cooperate immediately with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the full implementation of its safeguards agreement and to allow the Agency to have access to all safeguards-relevant information and locations. The

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Assembly took that action yesterday by adopting a resolution on the report of the IAEA. There were 161 votes in favour to 1 against (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), with 6 abstentions (China, Cuba, Ghana, Iran, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Viet Nam).

By the same resolution, the Assembly noted that the IAEA was now in a position to implement its ongoing Monitoring and Verification Plan in Iraq. It stressed the need for Iraq to continue its cooperation with the Agency in achieving the complete and long-term implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Also yesterday, the Assembly took action on 22 reports recommended by its First Committee (Disarmament and International Security). It adopted 43 draft resolutions, 21 of them by recorded vote, and two draft decisions, one by recorded vote. Most of the recorded votes were taken on nuclear-related resolutions.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed hope that, by 31 March 1995, enough progress will be achieved in the identification and registration of voters in Western Sahara to enable him to recommend 1 June 1995 as the date for the start of the transitional period. He visited the region last month, and had consultations with the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia El-Hamra y de Río de Oro (POLISARIO) and the Moroccan Government. He also visited the headquarters of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) at Laayoune.

In his latest report to the Security Council on Western Sahara, the Secretary-General said that as of 1 June 1995, in accordance with the settlement plan, the combatants of both sides would be confined to designated locations. As soon as possible after that date, prisoners-of-war would be exchanged and all political prisoners and detainees would be released. By mid-August, the reduction of Moroccan forces present in the Territory would be completed and all laws or measures that could obstruct a free and fair referendum would be suspended.

The Secretary-General recommended that the Council expand MINURSO to facilitate the timely completion of the identification and registration process. The Identification Commission would require an extra 51 Professional staff, while the civilian police component would need another 105 officers. In mid-August, assuming the Council approved the expansion, the registration and identification process should be completed and the final list of voters published. He envisaged that the referendum would take place in October 1995.

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The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Justice

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Richard Goldstone, will visit Kigali on 19 and 20 December. The purpose of the visit will be to hold consultations relating to the setting up of the Office of the Prosecutor of the Rwanda Tribunal.

Accompanied by three senior members of his staff, Justice Goldstone will have meetings with high-level officials of the Government of Rwanda. He will also meet with the Secretary-General's Special Representative, officials of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), the Special Investigation Unit of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and relevant non-governmental organizations.

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